

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 7, 18, 21 and 23 are amended and claims 4 and 20 are cancelled. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amended claims are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable but objected-to dependent claim 4/1 and, accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be allowable; claim 4 is cancelled.

Claims 2 and 5-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and, accordingly, are in allowable condition as well.

Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable but objected-to claim 20/18 and the latter is cancelled. Accordingly, claim 18 is currently allowable.

Dependent claims 19 and 21 through 25 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 18 and, accordingly, are likewise allowable.

Claims 33-36 are allowed.

Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable.

ITEM 1: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 9, 18 and 25 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER BHAGAT (U.S. PATENT 3,580,670) IN VIEW OF TANAKA (U.S. PATENT 5,995,717);

ITEM 2: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2 and 19 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER BHAGAT (U.S. PATENT 3,580,670) IN VIEW OF TANAKA (U.S. PATENT 5,995,717) AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF UMEDA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,302,015)

The rejections are respectfully traversed, as moot, in view of the foregoing amendments to claims rendering all pending claims allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing has clearly established the pending claims are allowable over the references and rejections of record. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Docket No.: 300.1147

Serial No. 10/790,872

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 22, 2007

By: _____


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